

Message Text

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TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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FOL REPEAT MOSCOW 12672 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

QTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM US UR

SUVJ: SOVIET NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS

1. DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION AT DINNER AUGUST 10, POLITICAL CONSELOR ASKED AMBASSADOR ROLAND TIMERBAYEV, DEPUTY GEAD INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISIONS, MFA, ABOUT TWO PERCENT SOVIET NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WHICH PRESS REPORTS ALLEGE MAY HAVE EXCEEDED TTBT AND PNE THRESHHOLD. IN REPLY, TIMERBAYEV SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ISSUING A PRESS STATEMENT THROUGH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD CLARIFY THIS MATTER. PRESS STATEMENT WOULD ASSERT FLATLY THAT SOVIETS HAVE NOT EXCEEDED LIMITS IMPOSED BY TREATY.

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHER ONE OF EXPLOSIONS WAS A PNE, TIMERBAYEV REPLIED THAT ONE OF THESE EXPLOSIONS CLEARLY DID NOT TAKE PLACE AT THE TRADITIONAL NUCLEAR TESTING SITE AND THAT THE CONCLUSION TO BE DRAWN FROM THIS IS CLEAR. IN ESSENCE, THIS WAS MEANT AS CONFIRMATION THAT ONE EXPLOSION WAS INDEED A PNE. STOESSEL UNQTE KISSINGER

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